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Fulbright Urges More Power for President

Stronger Hand Needed in Foreign Policy, Senator Declares, Cuban Situation Cited

BY LOUIS B. FLEMING

Los Angeles Times News Service

NEW YORK—The powers of the President to handle foreign policy must be strengthened, Sen. J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) said Monday, citing the recent Cuban crisis to support his contention.

Foreign policy powers in the White House and the Congress interfere with the effectiveness of the President's leadership, according to the senator, who is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Fulbright shared the platform with Pierre Mendes-France, former premier of France, in a discussion of the role of democracy in national and world politics.

They were the featured speakers on the opening day of a two-day convocation marking the 10th anniversary of the Fund for the Republic.

The pre-eminent task of the President, according to Fulbright, is to educate and lead public opinion.

Prospect Disagreeable

"Accordingly, I think that we must contemplate the further enhancement of Presidential authority in foreign affairs," he said.

"The prospect is a disagreeable and perhaps a dangerous one, but the alternative is immobility and the paralysis of national policy in a revolutionary world, which can only lead to consequences immeasurably more disagreeable and dangerous."

The power of the President is not equal to his responsibilities, particularly in handling long-term problems, Fulbright said. In these areas, the President's power is weakened essentially by the diffusion of authority.

White House and the Congress.

"The defects of Congress as an institution reflect the defects of classical democratic thought," Fulbright said.

"These pertain particularly to foreign policy. In domestic matters, it seems to me, the Congress is as well qualified to shape policy as the Executive, and in some respects more so because of the freedom of at least some members from the particular electoral pressures that operate on the President."

But foreign policy is another matter, Fulbright continued.

This was demonstrated clearly in the Cuban crisis of last October when there was no alternative to Presidential decision and action, he said.

Resolution on Force

"The circumstances were such that it was quite impossible to seek the counsel of the leaders of Congress, who, in fact, and quite properly, were informed but not consulted," he continued.

"Congress had in fact implicitly acknowledged the unfeasibility of consultation in an emergency by adopting in the summer of 1962 resolutions authorizing the President to use force if necessary to our vital interests in both Cuba and Berlin."

Both Fulbright and Mendes-France concluded that

tries," Mendes-France added.

"This does not mean that there should be an abrupt break with the past, however, the French leader said.

The key is to establish a balance between government, planning and private endeavor, which protects the individual.

He sharply criticized the administration of President Charles de Gaulle, making clear his disagreements with De Gaulle on the questions of the Common Market and each independent nuclear development of the new countries.